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World Pg7

Paris, like, ready to lead U.S.

Man nabbed for antique vehicle scam

AUCTION Police have caught a Kelowna, B.C., man who allegedly used Calgary bank accounts to bilk hundreds of thousands of dollars in an online antique car auction scam.

A two-year joint investigation by Calgary police and RCMP indicates that the scam may have been part of a larger scheme involving other suspects, but Kurtis Eugene Pomerleau is facing two charges of theft over $5,000 and two counts of fraud over $5,000 for his role.

Police said victims from the United States and Sweden were lured into online auction sites and would wire money, usually in the tens of thousands of dollars, to bank accounts in Calgary and either wouldn't receive anything in return or a car that wasn't the one they thought they were buying.

METRO CALGARY

Canada page 4

2010 torch relay to stay in Canada

Food page 12

A dish that's just peachy

Celebrity page 18

Babies next for Jen, John?

Beijing Olympics

Kick-starting the Games

MARCOS BRINDICCI/REUTERS

Canada's Claire Rustad, left, fights for the ball against Argentina's Fabiana Vallejos during their women's soccer match at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in Tianjin, China, yesterday. Canada beat Argentina 2-1. Story, page 10.

Findings stir hope

U of C drug sends kids' cancer cells into 'suicide mode'

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

A breakthrough in cancer research at the University of Calgary has garnered international recognition and stirred hope for the future treatment of juvenile cancer patients.

Aru Narendran, a University of Calgary professor and pediatric oncologist at the Children's Hospital, announced that he and his team of students have found a way to grow atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumour (AT/RT) in a Petri dish. The fast-acting, deadly, yet extremely rare brain cancer targets young children, mostly under the age of two, and the survival rate for those under three is currently at less than 10 per cent.

Narendran

"Cancer cells, for known and unknown reasons, do not grow outside the body," said Narendran, who is also a staff scientist with the Tom Baker cancer centre. But by putting the cells in brain fluid where it thrives, the cancerous cells began to grow rapidly.

After discovering the cell required a growth stimulatory molecule to grow, the team added a new drug, AEW-514, in a method called target therapeutics that blocked the molecules and the cancer cells stopped growing. In fact, Narendran said they went into "suicide mode" and died.

"It's almost like a drug addict," the scientist said. "Take away the drug and they can't function."

The findings won't be ready to be tested on children for a few years, but it gives hope to those affected.

Christine Wandzura founded the Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta, after which the cancer cell strain is named (KCCF1), after her son Derek died in 1991 from AR/RT.

She said the findings are "bittersweet."

"Nothing we do today will help the child diagnosed yesterday," she said. "But it will help those diagnosed tomorrow."

Worldwide tests

- The cancer cells have now been released to labs across the world to see if their findings can be replicated.

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Wagon racing loses 2 legends

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

Tragedy has struck the chuckwagon racing community with the passing of two of the sports' legends within a 24-hour period.

Dallas Dorchester battled cancer for several years, succumbing to the disease yesterday at the age of 62.

Kelly Sutherland, a good friend of Dorchester who raced alongside him for 20 years, said he had a tough competitive streak and "immense talent."

"He was, I would think, one of the best chuckwagon drivers there ever was in talent," Sutherland said yesterday. He said even after he retired from racing he kept in the horse business and had a deep ability with horses.

But the death of Herman Flad, 68, comes as more of a shock to what Sutherland calls the close-knit community of chuckwagon racers.

Tuesday, Flad's tractor-trailer collided with a vehicle on a northern Alberta highway while pulling a trailer of prized thoroughbreds. He had competed a day earlier in Strathmore.

"Herman's loss is tragic," Sutherland said. "He's one of the more colourful individuals who had been on the tour. Truly a real cowboy."

Fourteen of the 15 horses also died in the accident. The man driving the other vehicle was airlifted to hospital while the child with him was taken by ground ambulance to hospital.

Police have not determined the cause but said alcohol was not a factor.

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Father suing guilty driver over son's death

A drunk driver, who killed a 17-year-old two years ago, is being sued by the teen's father for $86,000. Connor Rhys Simpson's father James alleges that Tegan Peter Milaney, serving a two-year prison term for the death, should have to pay funeral costs and bereavement. METRO CALGARY

Local

Blues by the Bow

The Calgary International Blues Festival starts today and goes until Sunday. Tickets are still available for the outdoor festival at the Pumphouse Theatre near the Bow River. For more information visit www.calgarybluesfest.com. METRO CALGARY

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION weekdays at 6 | Citytv ROGERS

Cauldron to be lit at Canada Olympic Park during Games

The Calgary Olympic Development Association (CODA) will fire up the Olympic cauldron at Canada Olympic Park on Friday morning at 10 a.m.

The cauldron will remain lit for the duration of the Summer Olympics in Beijing, in support of the Canadian athletes competing in the games.

"Calgary is a part of the world-wide Olympic community and it is important for us at CODA to ensure we are building the Olympic spirit whenever we can," says Guy Huntingford, president and chief executive officer, CODA. METRO CALGARY

News in brief

COSTLY BATTLE A human rights case against defunct Western Standard publisher Ezra Levant for re-running controversial Dutch cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed was dropped yesterday. The 900-day Alberta Human Rights Commission battle cost Levant more than $100,000 in legal bills. METRO CALGARY

Demand for blood twice normal levels

Need for donors desperate

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

While the supply is there, the demand is much higher and the Canadian Blood Services is begging for blood donors to step up to the needle.

More cars on the road causing accidents, busy operation rooms and vacation are all factors in the demand for blood during the summer, spokesperson Bonnie Monteith told Metro.

"It's not so much that we don't have enough blood, it's just that the demand is so high right now. It's double what it normally is this time of year," she said, adding it's like that across the country.

Monteith said the agency is in dire need of 6,200 donors in southern Alberta before the Labour Day long-weekend.

"We're calling on previous donors who maybe haven't donated lately and we're also putting out a call to new donors to give for the first time."

And that's exactly what 22-year-old Lindsey Graham is going to do.

"I had been planning on donating for some time and now that I know they need blood right now, I guess this is a better time than any," she said.

Anyone willing to donate blood is encouraged to call 1-888-2-DONATE to set up an appointment.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Judy Allen, RN, drew blood from Les Brodie at the Canadian Blood Services yesterday. The group is facing double the demand for blood and appealing for the public's help to meet it.

Sask., Man. growth outpace Alberta

GDP Although some may argue "West is still best," the booming Prairie provinces east of Alberta are actually leading the nation in economic growth this year.

"While 'west is the best' still holds true, attention this year has shifted away from Alberta to Saskatchewan and Manitoba in 2008," chief economist of the Conference Board Glen Hodgson said.

"Resource-rich Saskatchewan is poised to enjoy another year of stellar growth and Manitoba's economy remains unfazed by hardship in the U.S. and Central Canada."

Alberta still comes in third, but the other two provinces growth rate catapulted them to lead the pack, he added. Alberta's economy has settled to a more sustainable rate of growth.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

'08 growth forecast

- Sask. — 4.2 per cent
- Manitoba — 3.6 per cent
- Alberta — 2.6 per cent

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LRT redesign open-house
An open-house information session is open to the public tonight at the Westgate Community Association regarding the west LRT project redesign overview. This is the second of two and runs from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at 4943 8 Ave. SW. METRO CALGARY

Grass fires keeping the crews busy

NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

BATTLES Expect more grass fires.

Calgary Fire Department was a busy lot Wednesday afternoon, battling as many as eight separate grass fires they suspect were caused by train sparks and dry conditions west of Barlow Trail from 90 Ave. SE to Peigan Trail.

The first call came in around noon and while no serious damage was caused aside from some charred creosote soaked rail ties and a deck at Canalog Proplate on 57 Ave., which was extinguished before it could reach the building.

By 2 p.m., they were just putting the finishing touches on a few hot spots.

Calgary Fire Department's Jeff Budai said a quick response kept things from getting out of hand.

"With the weather and climate we've had over the past few weeks, we anticipate we'll see more of this type thing," he said. "We're totally prepared, we seen that today and we'll just take it as it comes."

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Watch video reports on the surging popularity of pre-natal classes in Calgary and on the tragic death of a woman run over by her sister, and take a look at the province's oldest theatre — the Empress in Fort McMurray — and it's struggle for survival
Play online Jumble Jong!

2008 homicide record possible

Calgary currently on pace to break 16-year-old high

KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Calgary

While Calgary is on pace to break the record for most homicides per year, investigators are hoping it's one distinction the city leaves behind.

With 21 murders on the books this year, compared to only 16 at this time in 2007, the city could be on pace to break the 1992 record of 32 homicides by hitting a total of 36 this year.

"There are no real predictors and why its increasing it's hard to say, but if you look at how the city has grown in population the statistics are getting higher," homicide Staff Sgt. Kevin Forsen told Metro.

Those stats don't include the number of shootings and stabbings that have left numerous people in critical condition, only to be saved by the incredible work of city emergency services, he added.

"It's definitely at the forefront of our mind if not for the amazing work EMS and the hospitals do, the numbers would be a lot higher."

Forsen says while the numbers are higher this year, he wants to point out that there was a spike of five murders in January alone, while March had zero.

"We would definitely like to see a lot more months like March, and less like January and May," he said, adding four murders were committed at one time in May during the Lall family tragedy.

Gang-related murders combine for 25 per cent of the total, which is four so far this year, compared to three last year, Forsen said.

city homicides

2003 – 10
2004 – 16
2005 – 24
2006 – 26
2007 – 30
2008 – 21 to date

Get your napkins ready Calgarians

NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

FOOD Waistlines will swell and sensory receptors may twitter on the brink of overload.

Organizers expect nearly 80,000 will saunter over to the 12th annual installment of A Taste of Calgary and belly up to sample the wares of 50 local food and beverage purveyors.

But just how much gorging goes on is strictly up to the person filling their face, said Sue Van Aalst, who along with her husband Dave came up with the idea.

"I don't think there will be anything a jog can't handle," she said, noting smaller sample sizes should help mitigate Monday morning weigh-scale malfunction and there will be healthy food available, like flourless chocolate cake.

"It's just a great opportunity for people to come down, get a bit of a sample so they can decide where they want to go for dinner next week."

A Taste of Calgary runs from Thursday night to Sunday at Eau Claire Market.

ROBIN KUNISKI FOR METRO CALGARY

Sue and Dave Van Aalst, producers of the Taste of Calgary, wants everyone in the city to come down to Eau Claire to try a bit of everything this city has to offer in the way of fine foods and great drinks.

News in brief

CEREMONY Canadians killed in peacekeeping operations are going to be honoured at a Calgary ceremony this Sunday at noon. Dignitaries, families of soldiers killed, veterans and others will be on hand for the ceremony at Garrison Green.

ENVIRONMENT Banff will be the backdrop for a meeting this Saturday between the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the US National Wildlife Federation to discuss pressing international environmental issues, according to a release. Pat Doyle, President of the Canadian Wildlife Federation will be among the speakers.

RISING SALARIES A World-at-Work survey found that Calgary and Edmonton will lead the country in rising salary budgets. According to the report, employers in the two Alberta cities will shell out four per cent more in 2008 and 3.9 per cent in 2009.
METRO CALGARY

Booze-related driving deaths troubling for police officers

NEIL MACKINNON
Metro Calgary

SAFETY Booze may kill more driving Calgarians this year than last.

Toxicology results have yet to come in on three vehicular fatalities over August-long weekend, but Calgary police suspect they were the result of drunk driving.

If confirmed, the city will have had nine alcohol-related car deaths this year, one higher than in the same period last year, a troubling trend for Staff Sgt. Brett Marklund.

"It's like putting a gun to your head and thinking 'well, I didn't know it was loaded,'" he said.

"Don't put the gun to your head, don't get behind the wheel when you're all drunk, it's a simple message but all you have to do is look at the carnage from the weekend to realize there's a systematic failure in the public education process, clearly."

Marklund said a mindset of not getting caught or eluding the justice system have created a roller-coaster for cops trying to address the issue.

He says it seems there will be no deadly drunken crashes for a month "and you think you've rounded a corner," then there are three in a two-day span "and you're simply amazed because they're all preventable."

Liberal shadow justice minister Kent Hehr said the province must do a better job in funding city cops as an increased presence would act as a bigger deterrent.

"I like to go out and enjoy the nightlife, but I can't remember the last time I saw a checkpoint," he said.

There is tremendous stress on the local force, Marklund said, but it's not about to impact their bottom line efforts in their ongoing battle against drunk driving.

"We're going to just keep slugging away," Marklund said.

Yesterday, the province announced that provincial sheriffs have been empowered to enforce impaired driving laws.

fatal collisions

2003- 18
2004- 17
2005- 11
2006- 19
2007- 13

Military funding doesn't add up
The Conservative government's pledge for a stable funding program for the Canadian military will actually result in less money for the cash-strapped Forces because of inflation, a Senate committee released yesterday said. **SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

More charges for teacher

Prosecutors in Virginia unsealed another 17-count indictment against a Montreal private-school teacher yesterday, bringing to 27 the number of charges against him in a child-sex sting set up by police in Fredericksburg, Va. Richard Doucet, 36, a teacher at Westmount's prestigious Selwyn House, was arrested in early May, after he was arrested by an undercover officer who had been posing online as a 13-year-old boy. SOURCE: CBC NEWS ONLINE

Bags of petitions stream in

Human rights groups continue to protest Beijing Games

TRACEY TONG
Metro Canada

On the eve of the Beijing Olympics, Ottawa demonstrators made a last effort yesterday to improve the human rights situation in China before the games begin.

A handful of protesters calling for a free Tibet chained themselves to the gate of Ottawa's Chinese embassy on St. Patrick St., while Amnesty International officials tried to deliver petition cards signed by Canadians demanding that China keep its pre-Olympic promise to address human rights complaints.

ETIENNE RANGER/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Lindsay Mossman, a campaigner for Human Rights Asia and Amnesty International, attempts to deliver bags full of petitions signed by thousands of Canadians to the Chinese Embassy on St Patrick Street in Ottawa yesterday.

The Chinese government promised to improve human rights if they won the 2008 Olympics and Amnesty is holding them to it, said David Kelleher, president of Amnesty International Canada.

The campaign was to protest the lack of fair trials, media censorship, repression of activists and to stop executions, which numbered 6,000 in China last year.

Amnesty spokeswoman Lindsay Mossman said 65,000 people across Canada have sent postcards or e-mails and signed petitions over the last year, indicating their support for Amnesty's cause.

Kelleher had requested to meet with the Chinese ambassador about 10 days ago.

He never heard back, despite a follow up call days later.

The protest ended without any arrests.

Vancouver torch to stay on Canadian soil

OLYMPICS The Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics will not stage an international torch relay to avoid any potential worldwide protests, the Games chief John Furlong said yesterday.

"The torch relay will be announced at the end of this year. It will only be in Canada," Furlong said of the 35,000 kilometre domestic relay that will last 106 days.

"We see this as a way for every Canadian to come face to face with the Games," he told an IOC session.

The IOC have decided to review the torch relay after the Beijing 2008 Games international leg turned into a weeks-long demonstration by activists against China's human rights record and its policies in Sudan's Darfur region and Tibet.

Elvis Stojko leads a Human Rights Torch Relay protesting the Beijing games.

Major violent demonstrations marred the London and Paris legs of the relay while protests were also held in several other cities. REUTERS

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19 - 2520 23rd St. NE
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1288 42nd Ave. SE
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255 28th St. SE
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4949 Barlow Trail SE

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Cochrane

4 - 201 Grand Blvd.
15 - 312 5th Ave. W

Okotoks

181 - 31 Southridge Dr.
118 Elizabeth St.

Strathmore

8 - 55 Wheatland Trail
103 - 331 3rd Ave.

New Brunswick minister charged with sex offences
A Free Will Baptist minister has been charged with sex offences dating as far back as the 1970s Fred Douglas Hanson, 59, of Somerville, N.B., was charged in Woodstock and Grand Falls with several counts including sexual assault and indecent acts against children. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ship sent to fight pirates

"Food supplies are urgently needed in Somalia, but deteriorating security has made delivery difficult by land and sea"
Peter MacKay

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Canada is deploying the frigate HMCS Ville de Quebec to the coastal region of Somalia for the next few weeks to fight pirates attacking UN World Food Program ships carrying life-saving supplies to the area.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said NATO allies had asked for help in the drought-hit east-African country.

"As a result of the sadly despicable acts of piracy around ships bringing relief into Somalia, we will … support that type of protection to see that food is delivered on time and safely to the people of Somalia," the minister said yesterday in Halifax.

He said much of the mission is deterrence and the frigate won't likely see direct action.

"Food supplies are urgently needed in Somalia, but deteriorating security has made delivery difficult by land and sea," he added.

More than 2.4 million Somalis rely on food aid, of which ninety per cent arrives by sea.

While pirates have launched at least 24 attacks on vessels off Somalia's eastern and northern coasts this year alone, to date no escorted WFP ships have been targeted.

Somalia has been without an effective centralized government since a 1991 coup.

Toronto **Dinosaur delight**

FRED THORNHILL/REUTERS

Ethan Pepper, 7, right and Zoe Pepper, 9, look at a dinosaur exhibit erected by the Royal Ontario Museum at Pearson International Airport in Toronto yesterday. The exhibit is part of an ongoing string of featured art at the airport.

B.C. woman mauled in black bear attack

UNPROVOKED A woman was recovering from bite wounds after she was mauled by a bear while gardening outside her house in a suburb of Vancouver yesterday, police said.

The 35-year-old woman was in the front yard of her house in Coquitlam, British Columbia, when the animal attacked her, apparently without provocation, neighbours and police said. Neighbours who heard the woman's screams threw rocks at the bear to make it stop its attack. The animal was later shot and killed by a police officer. Black bears often wander down from the mountains into some of Vancouver's suburbs in search of food but attacks on humans are extremely rare. REUTERS

52 The number of deaths caused by black bear attacks between 1900 and 2003 in North America.

Court denies Schreiber review

EXTRADITION A federal court dismissed a request yesterday from German-Canadian arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber for a judicial review of a decision relating to a 2004 extradition order.

Schreiber has been fighting extradition to Germany for years, and has filed numerous applications in Canadian courts to appeal Ottawa's decision.

Karlheinz Schreiber

Federal Justice Minister Rob Nicholson declined to accept further submissions from Schreiber in March 2008, saying they raised no new issues. Schreiber had sought a judicial review of the minister's decision.

But a three-judge panel of the Ontario Court of Appeal said it did not accept any of Schreiber's arguments. REUTERS

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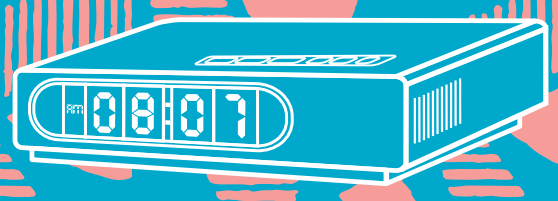
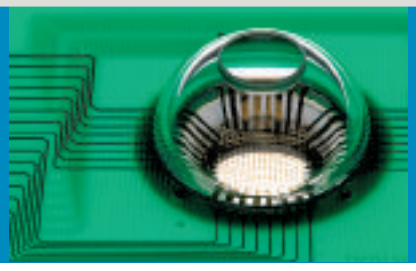


Chinook Centre // Market Mall // Southcentre Mall

New Yorkers favour a millionaire's tax: Poll
New York State voters support increasing the income tax on millionaires by a margin of 78 per cent to 18 per cent, according to a poll released yesterday. A majority of Republicans also backed a higher tax on millionaires by a margin of 56 per cent to 36 per cent, according to the survey by Quinnipiac University. REUTERS

World



Eye spy a new camera

Borrowing one of nature's best designs, U.S. scientists have built an eye-shaped camera using standard sensor materials and say it could improve the performance of digital cameras and enhance imaging of the human body. The device might even lead to the development of prosthetic devices including a bionic eye, they said. REUTERS

Iraq election law change postponed

KURDS Iraq's parliament has postponed by at least a month a vote on an elections law that has stoked tensions with minority Kurds, delaying even further local polls seen as a key test for Iraq's fledgling democracy.

Lawmakers met yesterday in the hope of finding a compromise on the law which will allow the provincial polls to be held and will shape the future of the contested city of Kirkuk.

REUTERS

News in brief

EGYPT Scientists are testing stillborn children found in the Pharoah Tutankhamun's tomb in the hope of identifying their maternal lineage, Egypt's chief archaeologist said yesterday.

REUTERS

Anthrax suspect dead, U.S. says

Army researcher killed himself last week

An Army scientist who committed suicide last week was solely responsible for the 2001 U.S. anthrax attacks that killed five and shook a nation reeling from the Sept. 11 hijackings, authorities said yesterday.

Federal court documents outlined the government's case against U.S. Army researcher Bruce Ivins, casting him as an anthrax expert beset by paranoia who faced pressure over a stalled anthrax vaccine project.

Ivins killed himself before he could be charged with committing the letter-borne attacks.

Case against Ivins

- Just a few days before the 2001 anthrax attacks, Ivins sent an e-mail warning that Osama "bin Laden terrorists" had anthrax and sarin gas and included language similar to that in the anthrax letters, according to court documents.

Ivins's attorneys maintained his innocence, but prosecutors said the case will be closed.

"We believed that, based on the evidence we had collected, we could prove his guilt to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt," Jeffrey Taylor, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, told a news conference at the Justice Department.

Critics said the case was built on circumstantial evidence and cited missteps in the nearly 7-year probe, including the initial focus on another Army scientist, Steven Hatfill, at the same biodefence research laboratory in Fort Detrick, Maryland. Hatfill never was charged and the government agreed to pay him a nearly $6-million settlement.

REUTERS

REUTERS/COURTESY FUNNYORDIE.COM/HANDOUT

Paris Hilton is seen in this undated publicity image from a video in response to John McCain's television advertisement.

'Totally ready to lead'

POLITICS Socialite Paris Hilton has jumped into the U.S. election campaign, calling Republican candidate John McCain a "wrinkly white-haired guy" and offering her own energy policy.

Hilton, dressed in a leopard print swim suit and gold pumps, jokingly declared her own candidacy in a video on the website Funny or Die, saying: "I want America to know that I'm, like, totally ready to lead."

She was responding to a television ad by McCain, 71, that used her image to attack Democratic rival Barack Obama. The 27-year-old socialite said McCain's use of her in the ad had effectively put her in the race for the top U.S. office.

REUTERS

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Banker suing Bidens

A Deutsche Bank executive is suing a son and a brother of Delaware Sen. Joe Biden for at least $10 million over a deal they had to buy into a hedge fund, according to court documents. Stephane Farouze claimed that Biden's son Hunter and brother James broke a contract and defrauded him. REUTERS

Mauritania's military coup condemned

Rice calls for release of president and prime minister

The United States condemned a coup in Mauritania yesterday and urged the military to release the president and prime minister and restore the democratically elected government.

"We call on the military to release President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi and Prime Minister Yahya Ould Ahmed Waghef and to restore the legitimate, constitutional, democratically elected government immediately," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a statement.

> **"We oppose any attempts by military elements to change governments."**
> Condoleezza Rice

Abdallahi, Mauritania's first democratically elected president, was overthrown and arrested along with his prime minister on Wednesday by the head of his presidential guard, Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz.

"We oppose any attempts by military elements to change governments through extra-constitutional means," Rice said.

She welcomed statements by the African Union and the European Union condemning the coup. "The United States looks to all of our international partners to condemn this anti-democratic action."

Earlier, the State Department said the U.S. embassy in Mauritania was still working and had sent out warnings to Americans there to stay at home.

Late last year, Mauritania was selected by the Bush administration's Millennium Challenge Corporation to participate in a two-year "threshold program," which can help developing countries qualify for U.S. aid. REUTERS

Israel releases 2 more senior Hamas officials

NEGOTIATIONS Israel freed two senior Hamas officials detained in the occupied West Bank during a security sweep after the Islamist faction abducted an Israeli soldier two years ago, their families said yesterday.

The families said Abli Yaish, the Hamas mayor of Nablus, and Issa al-Ja'abari, a Hamas representative in Hebron, returned home after being freed from the Israeli detention centre Ofer.

The families said they posted bails of 25,000 shekels ($7,020) and 7,000 shekels respectively.

Israeli officials had no immediate comment.

Israel and Hamas have been negotiating through Egyptian mediators for the release of Gilad Shalit, the captive soldier believed being held by Hamas gunmen in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas has demanded Israel free all its jailed politicians and hundreds of other prisoners in exchange for Shalit. REUTERS

Minister freed

- Israel freed another prominent Hamas official on Sunday. Omar Abdel Razek, was finance minister when Israel arrested him in June 2006. An Israeli military tribunal later sentenced him on a charge of membership in a terrorist group.

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India **Honouring the snake god**

REUTERS/RAJ PATIDAR

Women offer prayers to a cobra snake on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Naag Panchami in the central Indian city of Bhopal yesterday. Naag Panchami is a unique festival dedicated to honour the snake god. The snake is one of the most revered animals in Hinduism.

News in brief

PAKISTAN Leaders of Pakistan's civilian coalition consulted into the early hours of this morning on whether to strip President Pervez Musharraf, a key U.S. ally, of his powers and possibly impeach him. Such a move would almost certainly plunge the nuclear-armed Muslim nation into a new bout of political instability unless the former army chief, who came to power in a coup nine years ago, decided to go quietly.

NUCLEAR The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee has urged the Bush administration to shelve a nuclear trade deal with India unless it can guarantee compliance with a U.S. law that would suspend trade if India tested a nuclear weapon again. In a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, California Rep. Howard Berman, a Democrat, said it would be better to suspend congressional approval of the deal until the next Congress which convenes in January 2009. REUTERS

MEXICO Gunmen killed a senior police homicide investigator in Ciudad Juarez on the U.S.-Mexico border, the fourth policeman killed in the city this week, an attorney general's office said yesterday. State police commander Vidal Barraza, who was investigating the 600 drug murders in Ciudad Juarez this year, was shot Tuesday night as he stepped out of his house to meet a friend, the Chihuahua state attorney general's office said. REUTERS

Karadzic says he was granted immunity

THE HAGUE Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic demanded yesterday that former U.S. peace mediator Richard Holbrooke and ex-Secretary of State Madeleine Albright appear at the UN war crimes tribunal to back his claims of an immunity offer from the United States.

In a filing released by the tribunal, Karadzic repeated his claims that in 1996 Holbrooke had offered him immunity from the tribunal if he disappeared from public life.

Karadzic argued that when Holbrooke realized he could not persuade the court's chief prosecutor to drop the indictment he decided to "liquidate" him instead.

He said several attempts had been made to locate and assassinate him, and that he feared "the long arm of Mr. Holbrooke or Mrs. Albright" could reach him even in jail. REUTERS

West Nile's target genes discovered

HEALTH Researchers have traced all of the proteins and enzymes used by the West Nile virus to infect cells, and found 305 genes that could serve as targets for treatments.

"It comprises a dictionary of all of these genes that are critical for West Nile virus infection of a cell," said Dr. Erol Fikrig of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, whose study was published yesterday in the journal Nature. REUTERS

Ford gets an edge with blind spot mirror
Ford says it will introduce its Blind Spot Mirror this fall as standard equipment on the 2009 Ford Edge, a year ahead of schedule. The mirror is a traditional side view mirror with a secondary convex spotter in the top outer corner. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

DOLLAR 0.53¢ — C$ $95.45 US; US$ $1.0477

OIL $118.58 US; $0.59

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Polo Ralph Lauren posts high profit

FASHION Polo Ralph Lauren Corp. said net income rose 8 per cent to $95.2 million in the last quarter.

Polo's high-end customers are usually less wounded by a weak economy. REUTERS

Magna's profit drops as sales slip

AUTO PARTS Magna International reported a 13 per cent drop in quarterly earnings to $227 million as increases in European and "rest-of-world" sales were offset by reductions in North America. REUTERS

Bell bags subscribers

Parent BCE earnings tumble

BCE Inc.'s second quarter results have given analysts comfort that the company's $52-billion privatization will be completed as planned, but continued losses in the telephone business highlight the challenges facing the new owners as they attempt to right the slumping giant.

The Bell Canada Inc. parent said yesterday that earnings for the period fell to $392 million from a year-earlier $700 million.

Observers noted that Bell beat expectations in the key wireless sector even as rival Rogers Communications stole headlines by capturing a deal to sell Apple Inc.'s popular iPhone device in Canada.

Bell said net subscribers additions grew by 32 per cent to 83,000 over the three-month period while wireless network and equipment revenue grew by 9 per cent and 36 per cent as customers upgraded to smartphone devices. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bleeding clients

- Bell lost 125,000 landline subscribers last quarter.
- It also lost 7,000 business customers and 1,000 Internet subscribers.

Say cheese **Saputo's profit jumps**

CHRISTINNE MUSCHI/REUTERS

Lino Saputo, chairman of the board of Saputo Inc., jokes with his son Lino Saputo Jr., president and chief executive officer, before their annual general meeting in Montreal yesterday. Canada's biggest cheese maker reported a 21 per cent jump in first-quarter profit as higher revenue and prices more than offset the impact of a stronger Canadian dollar.

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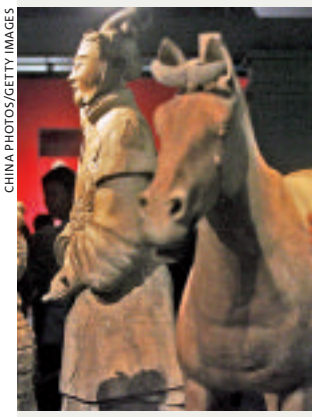
Flag raised
Canada held its traditional flag-raising at the Olympic Athletes Village, just a couple of blocks from the main Olympic complex. "This feels great," swimmer Mike Brown said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beijing Games

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

China **History**



CHINA PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES

The Johnson & Johnson Olympic Pavilion — featuring the famed Qin Shi Huang Terracotta Warriors, above — was unveiled in Beijing yesterday. The exhibit will be open to visitors to the Olympic Green for the duration of the Games.

Diego, Rafinha cleared for play

SOCCER Brazilian soccer players Diego and Rafinha will be allowed to remain at the Olympic Games in Beijing and play for their national team, their German Bundesliga clubs said yesterday, Reuters reports.

The clubs said they would let the players stay despite the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruling in their favour.

Two Canadians added to singles

TENNIS Two Canadians were added to the singles draw in Olympic tennis event yesterday.

23-year-old Frank Dancevic from Niagara Falls, and New Brunswick's Frederic Niemeyer, who is also competing in doubles with Toronto's Daniel Nestor, were named to replace players that had withdrawn from the Olympics. Germany's Rainer Schuettler and Jiri Vanek of the Czech Republic were also named as injury replacements.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tomorrow's lineup

GOING FOR GOLD "I'd trade every world championship for one Olympic gold medal," says Kyle Hamilton, captain of the Canadian men's eight rowing team. Pick up tomorrow's Metro for more.

1 day remains until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

Track stars racing to the top

'We're going to do whatever it takes,' teammates say

MARTY YORK
Metro Canada

Canada's track and field team has been shut out from Olympic medals since the glory days of Donovan Bailey back in 1996, but the drought could end this month.

That's because Canada has not one — but two — runners with authentic medal hopes. Both Tyler Christopher and Gary Reed, close friends with similar backgrounds, are generally perceived to be fast enough to possibly make it to the podium in Beijing.

Christopher, of Chilliwack, B.C., holds the Canadian record for the 400 metres. Reed, of Victoria, B.C., won the silver medal for the 800 metres at the world championship in Japan last year.

"We're tough little bastards and we don't take s–t from anybody, and we're climbing our way to the top," Christopher said. "It doesn't matter how hard it is. We have a goal that's set in front of us and we're going to do whatever it takes to achieve these goals."

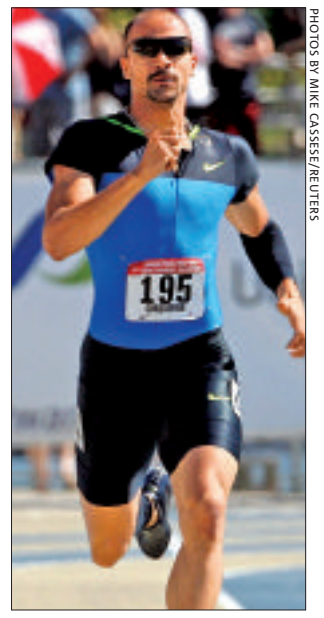
Reed suffered a setback on July 26, when he fell during a race in England and failed to finish. Only a week earlier, the 26-year-old speedster had won the 800-metre race at a meet in Belgium, recording his fastest time of the season — 1:44.46.

In Athens four years ago, Reed ran out of gas in the semi-finals, claiming he was mentally exhausted. He's eager to prove he can overcome any adversity in Beijing.

"Trust me, nobody in the media wants to win a medal more than I do, I can guarantee that," Reed said recently. "I'm the one who gets up in the morning and goes and trains. I want it bad."

Christopher and Reed developed a bond after they discovered they both grew up in difficult circumstances, raised by single mothers in near poverty.

"We've made it this far, against the odds," Christopher said. "We know we can go further now."



PHOTOS BY MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS

Gary Reed, left, and Tyler Christopher are both aiming to medal in Beijing this month.

Christopher, 24, started running 15 years ago because, he said, "my mom wanted to put me in something where I could burn off the excess energy I had. Next thing you know, I started winning races."

"I'm the one who gets up in the morning and goes and trains. I want it bad."
Gary Reed

Christopher left B.C. at the age of 17 to pursue track in Edmonton, where he had access to better facilities and coaching.

In his 2004 debut, he posted a record-setting qualifying time of 45.25, but was two weeks past the deadline to make the Canadian Olympic team — which meant he could not compete in Athens.

He's counting on the advice and experience of his buddy Reed to help him flourish in Beijing.

"Gary won't let himself get mentally exhausted this time," Christopher said, "and he promised he won't let me get that way, either."

KOJI WATANABE/GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Candace Chapman celebrates after scoring against Argentina in Tianjin, China, yesterday.

Debut a success as Canada beats Argentina

Canada's debut in Olympics women's soccer was a success: Canada beat Argentina 2-1 yesterday in the first competitive event of the Beijing Games.

Goals by Candace Chapman in the 27th minute and Kara Lang in the 71st gave Canada a comfortable margin and allowed the Canadians to withstand an 85th minute counter by Argentina's Ludmila Manicler.

"Obviously we didn't play as well as we would have liked to but it's the first game of the Olympics," said Christine Sinclair. "We were a little nervous, a little anxious but we always say the first game in a tournament is the hardest to get a result in."

The game was played in stifling heat — with temperatures of about 35C at kickoff — strength-sapping humidity and under a cloud of grey, polluted, stagnant air that's been the trademark of the run-up to the Games.

"I think (it was a factor) just in the sense that you'll start to feel a bit more tired earlier on in the game than you would in another environment," said Lang. "But ... it's something that both teams have to deal with so I don't think it's necessarily going to change the game too much or the outcome of the game."

The win is huge boost for Canada's hopes of qualifying for the quarter-finals of the 12-country tournament. There are three four-team pools in the tournament with the top two in each pool qualifying for the quarter-finals along with the two best third-place teams.

Canada faces China on Saturday and completes its first-round on Tuesday in Beijing against Sweden.

The victory did not come without a cost, though; Melissa Tancredi, a key forward, left after just 41 minutes with an apparent left ankle injury.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U.S. President issues strong rebuke to China over human rights

U.S. President George W. Bush issued one of his strongest rebukes to China on human rights yesterday.

Crowds chanted "Go Olympics, Go Beijing" as the Olympic flame was carried through Tiananmen Square on the last leg of its relay before tomorrow's opening ceremony.

At that ceremony, a Sudanese-born athlete who fled government-sponsored militia will carry the U.S. flag, in what could be seen as an embarrassment to Sudan and ally China.

Bush

Bush says he is attending the ceremony for sport and not for politics, but he plans to pause en route to express "deep concerns" over religious freedom and human rights in China.

"America stands in firm opposition to China's detention of political dissidents, human rights advocates and religious activists," he will say in a speech in Bangkok yesterday, excerpts of which were released in advance.

A handful of foreign protesters took their chance to grab the spotlight before attention shifts to the sporting contests.

Police rushed to detain two Britons and two Americans who unfurled "Free Tibet" banners from poles near the main "Bird's Nest" stadium, and stopped other public protests during the day.

Police were quick to react to the protest, taking 12 minutes to remove the four, before asking them to leave the country, according to state media. REUTERS

Jets, Bucs looking to acquire Favre
The New York Jets continued their active push to acquire Brett Favre, ESPN.com is reporting. A league source told ESPN's Sal Paolantonio yesterday that the Jets have offered a fourth-round pick to the Packers. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are also in trade talks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Esks' Ray wins weekly honours

Edmonton quarterback Ricky Ray, left, was named CFL Offensive Player of the Week yesterday. He was joined in Week 6 honors by a pair of Toronto Argonauts' defensive end Jonathan Brown and return specialist Dominique Dorsey. Ray completed 23-of-30 passes for a league-best 392 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Eskimos to a 35-24 win over the British Columbia Lions at Commonwealth Stadium. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

CLAIRE GREENWAY/GETTY IMAGES

Dana White the brains behind the incredibly successful Ultimate Fighting Championship is impressed at how many Canadians have embraced mixed martial arts.

St. Pierre set to face a 'Bad Dude'

MMA As president of the UFC, Dana White didn't feel particularly threatened from a business standpoint last month when Affliction staged a Pay-Per-View show featuring highly touted Russian fighter Fedor Emelianenko head-to-head with a UFC event.

"Those guys sell t-shirts for a living," referring to Affliction. "Do you know how many f**king t-shirts you'd have to sell to get $4 million back," a reference to the price they paid to bring Emelianenko to North America.

In a one-on-one interview with Metro, White also discussed UFC 87 this weekend, which features Canadian Georges St. Pierre defending his welterweight title against Jon Fitch. White admits St. Pierre is in tough against Fitch — who has won his last eight fights — he gives the Canadian his due.

"I don't think people realize the fight he's in this weekend," White said of St. Pierre. "Jon Fitch is a bad dude, but if George can walk through him like he has everybody else, it'll be impressive."

It will be St. Pierre's first bout since defeating Matt Serra at UFC 83 in Montreal in April, and he isn't taking the fight lightly either.

"He's a very, very tough guy," said St. Pierre of Fitch. "He may be my toughest fight yet."

Other bouts on the card Saturday in Minneapolis include Kenny Florian vs. Roger Huerta, which White suggests "may be the fight of the year," and football player-turned-wrestler turned MMAer Brock Lesnar returning to the Octagon against Heath Herring.

White also heaped praise on Canadian UFC and Mixed Martial Arts fans in general.

"When we bought this company, it was a no-brainer to me that the U.S., Mexico and the U.K. would all be big fight fans, he said. "I never, in a million years thought Canada would as big as it has been for us."

On the topic of bringing another UFC event back to Canada, White knows there are still legal hurdles in provinces such as Ontario.

"We're working on that," he said. Having seen several U.S. states come around and sanction UFC events under his watch, he's confident the rest of Canada will eventually follow suit. "We're going to keep pushing, and we're going to open up every province here in Canada. We're looking at it like we looked at the United States."

Players support Burris

DAN TOTH
for Metro Calgary

The Calgary Stampeders have plenty of blame to pass around for their two-game losing skid, but it isn't all getting thrown at the man who passes the football.

As the team heads to Saskatchewan for a rematch with the Roughriders tonight (8 p.m., TSN), some fans are calling for starting quarterback Henry Burris to sit in favour of backup Dave Dickenson. But the same sentiment isn't prevalent within the Stamps locker-room where responsibility is being shared for the offence's weak showing in a 22-21 loss to the Riders on Saturday.

"He had four dropped passes (on second down) that would have kept (the offence) on the field, so you can't blame the quarterback and I don't blame the quarterback," head coach John Hufnagel said.

"As long as he's managing the game and doing the things he has to do, that's all I ask of any quarterback. It's our responsibility as coaches and teammates to help him get the job done."

Brett Ralph is one receiver who certainly wasn't getting the job done against Saskatchewan. Ralph dropped two passes while teammates Ken-Yon Rambo and Jermaine Copeland were also to blame.

"I can never excuse myself for a dropped ball or a mental mistake," Ralph said.

"I'll be the first to admit I have to do a better job and I'll stick with Hank. It's not his fault."

Brett Ralph

The 3-3 Stampeders, tied for third place in the Canadian Football League West Division, are also making their first appearance in Regina since dropping the West semifinal against the Riders last November. It was their second straight post-season loss to Saskatchewan, which has quickly emerged as the Stampeders' toughest rival.

Last game Burris completed just 20 of 37 passes for 248 yards and one touchdown, well below the team's average output so far this season. He sees tonight's rematch against the defending Grey Cup champions, who boast a perfect 6-0 record and a solid defence, as a prime opportunity for redemption.

"We all understand that it was the worst performance we've had all year and the best way to come back from it is to come out and play like we're supposed to," said Burris.

"We feel that we're the best offence in the CFL and for us to come out there and play like that was pretty embarrassing.

"We're not a desperate team right now but we're a team that needs to overcome some of the faults that we've had and the mental mistakes we've made."

Europe favourites for Ryder: Azinger

GOLF The absence of the injured Tiger Woods from next month's Ryder Cup has bolstered Europe's status as favorites, according to U.S. captain Paul Azinger.

World No. 1 Woods, a member of the U.S. team at the last five Ryder Cups, was sidelined for the rest of this year in mid-June following reconstructive knee surgery. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Chicago White Sox 5 Detroit 1
L.A. Angels 9 Baltimore 4
Minnesota 7 Seattle 3
N.Y. Yankees 5 Texas 3
Tampa Bay 10 Cleveland 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs 11 Houston 4
Milwaukee 6 Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 5 Florida 0
Pittsburgh 2 Arizona 0
San Diego 4 N.Y. Mets 2
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Washington at Colorado (ppd., rain)

CFL

WEEK 7
TONIGHT'S GAMES
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CALGARY at Saskatchewan, 8
TOMORROW'S GAMES
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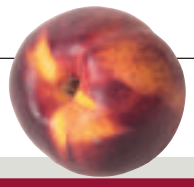

All in the family
The nectarine is a relative of the peach and may be used interchangeably in recipes. Nectarines are not quite as juicy as peaches, the flesh is a little firmer and the skin is smoother. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"To pick a perfect peach, look for a creamy gold or yellow skin and a pleasant aroma. A rosy-red blush is indicative of certain varieties, not ripeness."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

For full flavour

Avoid peaches, nectarines or apricots with even a touch of green which indicates they were picked too soon and will never ripen to their characteristic sweet flavour.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

À **la** carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Summer peach pleasure

Juicy, ripe peaches are one of the pleasures of summer. Sweet and flavourful, peaches (nectarines and apricots too) are tender fruit that are at their best when picked ripe and plump. This is also when they are most fragile. The best place to eat these fruits is in the orchard, having just plucked a sun-ripened fruit from the tree. As these sweet delicacies do not stand up to shipping, they are often harvested underripe. The sugars stop developing as soon as the fruit is picked, so try to buy as close to the source as possible.

Peaches, nectarines and apricots are all good sources of potassium, Vitamins A and C, are fat free and low in calories. Be sure to eat the skin for added fibre.

Warm Peach and Blueberry Tarts with Custard

These open-faced tarts are best served warm. If using puff pastry sheets, just thaw and cut each into 6 equal size squares. Makes 12 tarts.

INGREDIENTS:

Custard:
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) cornstarch
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) milk
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) vanilla

Filling:
- 4 ripe but firm freestone peaches
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) fresh blueberries
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) granulated sugar

Pastry:
- 397 g pkg frozen puff pastry, thawed
- Freshly ground nutmeg

METHOD:

Custard: Combine sugar and cornstarch in a 2-cup (500 mL) glass measure. Gradually whisk in milk until smooth. Microwave at high 1-1/2 to 2 minutes, until mixture comes to a boil and thickens. Stir at least once during cooking. In small bowl, lightly beat egg. Stir some of hot mixture into egg then whisk warmed egg into sauce. Microwave at medium 20 to 40 seconds or until thickened. Whisk partway through. Whisk in vanilla, set aside.

Preheat oven to 400F (200C). Peel peaches, by dipping in boiling water for 30 seconds; remove with a slotted spoon into cold water for another 30 seconds. Remove, slip off skin and thinly slice peaches. Toss gently with blueberries, lemon juice and sugar in bowl.

Roll out half the pastry on a lightly floured surface to a 12 x 8 inch (30 x 20 cm) rectangle. Cut pastry into six 4-inch (10 cm) squares.

Place on parchment paper lined shallow rimmed baking sheet, spacing apart. Repeat with remaining puff pastry, using 2 baking sheets.

Spoon fruit mixture in centre of pastry squares. Top each with about 2 tsp (10 mL) custard and a pinch of nutmeg.

Bake 20 minutes or until pastry is puffed and golden. Rotate baking sheets partway through cooking.

Cool baking sheets on wire racks 5 minutes then gently loosen tarts to cooling racks. Serve warm or at room temperature with additional custard thinned with a little milk and warmed in the microwave, as needed.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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The Service Canada Centre for Youth invites you to attend their Volunteer and Resource Fair.

Interested in volunteering or finding information on post-secondary education and Federal Government programs for youth?

When: Friday, August 8th, 2008
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Locations: Service Canada Centre for Youth Office
510, 12th Ave. SW
Room 217

Come check out all the volunteer opportunities in Calgary.
Also information on Federal Government youth programs will be offered as well as post-secondary information and other resources for youth in Calgary.

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Spin doctors

Energy-efficient appliances help cure households of inflated utility bills

SONYA PROCENKO
for Source Media Group

AN EFFICIENT, front-loading washing machine can use 50 per cent less energy and save thousands of litres of water a year. These days, Albertans are going green simply by using energy-efficient appliances like the front-loading washer.

"In Alberta, energy-efficient appliances and electronics are growing in popularity, but there is still significant room for improvement," says John Rilett, director of energy efficiency and conservation, Climate Change Central. "We have a lot of work to do. Some home builders are at the forefront and energy-efficient appliances are standard for them. There are many who don't know. There are many who may not be aware."

Launched in 2000, Climate Change Central is a public-private, not-for-profit organization. In 1999, the Alberta government brought private and public sector leaders together to find an effective way to manage climate change challenges in the province. The organization, which has offices in Calgary and Edmonton, focuses on reducing greenhouse gases through policy, energy efficiency, technology development and environmental communications.

Climate Change Central has energy efficiency tip sheets, which consumers can take with them to the store.

Rilett says "the washing machine is leading the way … most consumers aren't looking for a top loading machine … in electronics, most are looking at TVs and computers that are ENERGY STAR."

What exactly is ENERGY STAR? ENERGY STAR is the international symbol of energy efficiency that assists consumers in identifying home appliances and energy-using equipment that save energy. In Canada, ENERGY STAR is administered by Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency, which has voluntary arrangements with organizations that build, manufacture, sell or promote products or new homes that meet its energy performance levels.

While consumers are becoming more aware, Rilett says, energy efficiency is relatively low on their shopping list criteria, which usually considers first appliance size, colour and features.

"In retail, ENERGY STAR and energy ratings should be designed to find, easy-to-see.

"We need to get better at it. It needs to be part of the decision-making process."

EDITED FOR LENGTH BY METRO CALGARY

Energy efficient appliances are becoming more popular with homeowners, providing them with ecological and economical peace of mind.

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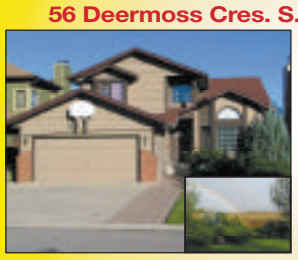

Enjoy this executive home that backs on to Fish Creek Park with 3 bedrooms upstairs; 2 down in finished basement; den on the main. The living and dining rooms extend to the bright oak kitchen with new appliances and a breakfast nook that flows into the sunken family room. The ensuite has a jetted tub, separate tiled shower and a walk-in closet. Kids park across the street, 3 schools close by.

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Beatles tape auctioned
A recently unearthed reel-to-reel tape of what is believed to be a Beatles recording session from 1964 was auctioned online earlier this week for $23,446 US, according to Cameo Auctioneers in the Berkshire village of Midgham. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

CSI outsider
Actor Laurence Fishburne is close to signing a deal to join CBS' CSI. Fishburne will play a doctor/scientist who comes into the CSI as an outsider, and not as a new boss. **TVGUIDE.COM**

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Entertainment in brief

MOVIES The Dark Knight has shattered yet another box office record after passing the $400 million US mark in just 18 days, imdb.com reports. Shrek 2 previously held the record by taking $400 million in 43 days. The Batman Begins sequel hit the target in less than half the time. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

MUSIC Steven Tyler is set to release his autobiography after the bosses of book company HarperCollins won an auction to publish the memoirs, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer is expected to reveal all about his past heroin addiction and issues with substance abuse. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Newman hits funny bone

Randy Newman

Album: Harps and Angels
Label: Nonesuch/Warner
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●●●

WE'RE DEALING with Randy Newman here, one of the best American songwriters of the last 50 years. So it goes without saying that this is a great record. It'll have you laughing out loud as he encounters a clerical error at the gates of heaven (Harps and Angels) or bidding adieu to the Great American Empire on A Few Words In Defense Of Our Country. We never had to be convinced that Randy is a very funny guy, though. Maybe, on his first studio album in nearly 10 years, we could have done with a few more tugs at the heartstrings (Feels Like Home, Losing You) and a little less of the gags.

Graham Rockingham

Oxford Collapse

Album: Bits
Label: Merge
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●●●

WITH SO MANY indie rock orchestras, or frenetic handclap obsessed foursomes out there, it's refreshing to hear an act that can just slap on the distortion and rock out. And if anyone knows the art of keeping it simple, it's Oxford Collapse. The Brooklyn band's fourth disc is a fantastic pop record that'll make you nostalgic for '90s acts like The Hardship Post or The New Grand. While it's fast and basic — there are plenty of speedy drums and furious downstrokes — it's also incredibly contagious.

Bryan Borzykowski

Brazilian Girls

Album: New York City
Label: Verve/Universal
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●●

ULTRA-HIP MUSIC to go with a Manhattan fashion ensemble of black-berets, skinny-jeans, over-roasted coffee and all things European. Multi-lingual vocalist Sabina Sciuba pours the cabaret accents on thick while drummer Aaron Johnston and keyboardist/programmer Didi Gutman provide dance rhythms for people too cool to lift their feet. This album works best when it doesn't take itself too seriously, like on the playful Losing Myself, which could easily have fit on a mid-80s record by the B-52s. Otherwise, vinyl skipping and subway clacking sometimes substitute for creativity. Brazilian Girls is not for the pharmaceutically challenged.

Graham Rockingham

Conor Oberst

Album: Self-titled
Label: Merge
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●●

IT'S SURPRISING THAT after all these years making music under his Bright Eyes moniker that Conor Oberst would release an album under his own name. Everyone knows that Oberst is the brains behind his band, and he often plays alone. But this is somewhat of a fresh start — here he plays some of his most spare and intimate tunes of his career. It's also not the emo-indie rock we're used to; the tracks are full-out alt-country. While it's interesting, others are doing this better. Bright Eyes fans will like it, but Americana aficionados should hear a few tracks first. **Bryan Borzykowski**

CD Reviews

music@metronews.ca

Castlemusic

Album: You Can't Take Anyone
Label: Blue Fog/Sonic Unyon
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●●

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a dreamy, minimalist pop fix then be sure to check out Toronto's Castlemusic. Essentially a solo project for Jennifer Castle, the musician's new disc is a soft, mostly guitar-based collection of attractive tunes. While it's all hauntingly spare, the best songs enlist fellow-Torontonian Ryan Driver on backup vocals, which adds a much-needed second layer to the bare bones tracks. Not every song works, but for the most part Castle's tunes are intriguing, contagious and a great next step in what could be a promising career. **Bryan Borzykowski**

VLADIMIR RADOJICIC/UNIVERSAL MUSIC

New York City is the new album from Brazilian Girls.

Amy Ray

Album: Didn't It Feel Kinder
Label: Daemon/Koch
Release date: August 5
Rating: ●●

A SURE FIRE way to ruin an otherwise perfectly good love song is to throw in a chorus about melting ice caps and helpless polar bears. That's exactly what Amy Ray does on Bus Bus, the third track on her latest solo album. It's indicative of many of the songs on this album by the rockier half of the Indigo Girls folk-rock duo. Just when things seem to be getting hot, Amy shoots herself in the foot with irksome politics. Ray's songwriting comes through best on Cold Shoulder, a simple song about the challenges of same-sex physical attraction. **Graham Rockingham**

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More staff under fire for celeb records peek

PEOPLE California health watchdogs are to investigate more staff members at Los Angeles' UCLA Medical Center over their involvement in the snooping into celebrity health records, imdb.com reports.

More than 50 physicians and medical workers at the unit have already been probed over claims they improperly viewed celebrity medical records.

One former administrative specialist, Lawanda Jackson, has been indicted for allegedly selling outpatient records to the media.

The medical records of stars including Tom Cruise, Farrah Fawcett, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Britney Spears are believed to be at the centre of the ongoing investigation, which was launched after an expose by the Los Angeles Times newspaper earlier this year.

But in a new state report, The California Department of Health investigators found that nearly twice as many medical centre employees than previously reported had looked at stars' confidential medical records.

It means an additional 60 workers could be investigated. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Employees at Los Angeles' UCLA Medical Center are suspected of looking at singer Britney Spears' health records.

In brief

MOVIES Music videos veteran Samuel Bayer, who directed Nirvana's Smells Like Teen Spirit, has signed on to shoot the action thriller Fiasco Heights. The Universal Pictures project revolves around a gunman who returns to the crime-ridden city of Fiasco Heights and teams with a degenerate gambler/private eye to look for a beautiful femme fatale and a mysterious briefcase.
Bayer is also attached to a remake of Near Dark, a 1987 vampire horror originally directed by Kathryn Bigelow. His other music clips include Green Day's Boulevard of Broken Dreams and Justin Timberlake's What Goes Around Comes Around. **REUTERS**

Show to appear in Practice

Actor Grant Show, left, has signed on to appear in an early Season 2 episode of ABC's Private Practice, sources said. His character, a charming and flirtatious doctor, is said to have ties to a Practice regular. EW.COM

World within city limits

Don't get me wrong. I'm sure you love Calgary and its quintessential kitsch. But sometimes you may be hungry for a taste of something less Cowtown and more uptown. Here are a few ways to leave the city without exceeding its limits.

1. Jet set to Europe

When I first entered the Grand Theatre on 1st Str. SW, its broken bottle chandeliers, sexy coloured lighting, and modern art made me check my watch to see if I was still on Mountain Standard Time. The in-house theatre company (www.theatrejunction.com) breaks during the summer, but why not dine on some Brome Lake Duck Breast at the Grand's Velvet restaurant this weekend?

Velvet's GM Maria Pierce says people often conjure comparisons to a Berlin nightclub. Achtung, baby. (That's all the German I know. Thanks U2.)

2. Stopover in NYC

Grab some gourmet pizza from the Wicked Wedge on 17th, saddle up to the Friday night action view and squint just a little bit…you could be in a New York City pizza parlour with the gang. (Not that kind of gang!)

Try it. I swear it works.

3. WestJet to Canadian cool

Perhaps it's because the building is older than its clientele. Or maybe it's because the hidden entrance (upstairs corner of a theatre) lends itself to a Prohibition speakeasy feel. But the Marquee Room on 8th Ave just doesn't belong here. It might fit in better in Montreal, Vancouver or at least Saskatoon.

Before it skips town, check out female-fronted band the Frosted Tipz tonight along with some up-and-coming Calgary art.

4. Road trip to California

Be still for a few moments among the stacks at Recordland in Inglewood and you could be in a vintage shop in LA. Should this experience not transport you to another location, it will at least send you back in time…musically speaking.

5. Daydream to nature

Fish Creek Park is a natural oasis nestled in the city's south. If you ignore the paved path beneath your feet, shield your eyes from cityscape glimpses between the trees and turn a deaf ear to the whiz of nearby traffic, it's almost like you're communing with nature. But watch out for cougars in jogging shorts.

Send your escape plans to slickcity@metronews.ca.

Please send your family-friendly comments to slickcity@metronews.ca.

You don't have to leave Calgary to take a little trip around the world, says columnist Heather Setka.

5th Grader slated for syndication

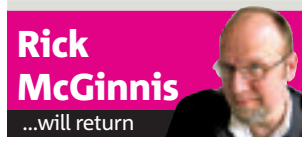
SHOW The Fox quiz show Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? is moving into syndication.

Twentieth Television is expected to announce shortly that it will debut a syndicated version in fall 2009. Comedian Jeff Foxworthy, who hosts the primetime version, is expected to take the reins.

A representative for Twentieth, the Fox corporate sibling that handles syndication, declined comment. But the distributor was known to have been developing a syndicated version of the show for several months.

Should a Foxworthy-hosted 5th Grader get cleared for a next year, it would be the second game show in as many years to leap from primetime to syndication. REUTERS

IntelleVision



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	505	398	19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568	23 W	Shopping Bags	House	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Open House
	521	560	24 TLC	American Chopper (HDTV) (N)		Miami Ink (HDTV) (N)		Battleground Earth		Miami Ink (HDTV)		Amer. Chopper
	603	561	25 FOOD	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Secret Life of	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Iron Chef America		Unwrapped
	615	520	26 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		I Survived (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48
	617	522	32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Billable Hours	ReGenesis (HDTV)		Intelligence		G-Spot	Exes & Ohs	Secret Diary
	601	562	33 SLICE	Last 10	Bulging Brides	The Biggest Loser		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Biggest Loser
	-	633	34 ENC2	(7:15) *The Peacekeeper* ★★ (1997, Action)				*Midnight Express* ★★★ (1978, Docudrama) Brad Davis.				*Bounty Huntrs*
	520	505	35 DISC	William Shatner, World		MythBusters		Daily Planet		Sport Science		Shatner
	620	523	36 BRAVO	*Deconstructing Harry* ★★★ (1997, Comedy-Drama)				Law & Order		Without a Trace		Entourage
	294	650	40 WPCH	*I Spy* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Owen Wilson.				Seinfeld	Frasier	*I Spy* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Eddie Murphy.		
	626	547	41 COM	Laughs	Comics!	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Rick Mercer	The Simpsons	South Park	Reality Bites
	-	539	42 TCM	(6) *Camille* (DVS)		*Ninotchka* ★★★★ (1939, Comedy) Greta Garbo. (DVS)				*Grand Hotel* (1932, Drama) (DVS)		
	628	584	43 SPIKE	TNA iMPACT! (N)				UFC 87 Countdown (N)		Real Vice	Real Vice	UFC 87 Count
	522	516	45 HIST	Disaster-Cent.	Masterminds	NCIS "Deception"		Pearl Harbor: Who Fired First		Air Wars		NCIS
	627	528	46 SPACE	*Earthstorm* (2006, Science Fiction) Stephen Baldwin.				Stargate SG-1 "Heroes"		Star Trek: Voyager		Star Trek: Ent.
	-	-	47 AMC	(6) *M*A*S*H* ★★★★ (1970, Comedy)			*Big* ★★★ (1988, Fantasy) Tom Hanks, Elizabeth Perkins, Robert Loggia.					Mad Men
	619	525	49 TROP	Tube Tales	Vanity Insanity	Inside Hollywood (DVS)		ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	600	564	50 HGTV	The Fix	Disaster DIY	Junk Brothers	The Big Flip	Holmes on Homes		Restaurant Makeover		The Fix
	501	391	52 CTV	CTV Newsnet		News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News	CTV Newsnet	News
	504	508	70 BNN	Taking Stock		Market Call		Business News		Market Call	Strictly Legal	Taking Stock
	526	507	92 CLT	(6) *The Waiting Game*		Traders "Price You Pay"		The West Wing		The District		*Waiting Game*
	269	350	93 APTN	First Talk	News	Overseas Leg.	From the Spirit	Reel Insights "Thin Ice"		The Journey David Gill. (N)		Highlight
	-	-	94 MCP	(6:30) News	News	The Land	Daughters-Law	Vancouver	Main Office	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Mor Deo Koi
	571	581	100 MMM	Canadian Idol	Uncovered	Celebracadabra		Canadian Idol		Canadian Idol	Uncovered	Celebraca
	570	580	101 MM	Muchmsc Ctdn	Instant Star	Instant Star	MuchTopTens		Gone Wild	Punk'd	Gone Wild	Muchmsc Ctdn
	581	566	102 MTV	Cribs Wildest Antics		True Life		MTV Live	Second Half	Buzzin	Run's House	True Life

critics' corner

Garbo

Curious about Greta Garbo? Dare we say it? You're not alone. Julie Christie narrates this fascinating profile of the reclusive Swedish beauty who quit Hollywood at the height of her fame. The special includes commentary by three of Garbo's biographers and an old friend, author Gore Vidal. 4:30 PM on TCM

Deconstructing Harry

If you like Woody Allen, this 1997 comedy is a pretty good one. He stars as Harry, a novelist who wrote a best-seller about all his friends. This is never a good idea; you should always wait until they're either dead or too old to give chase. Richard Benjamin, Robin Williams, Mariel Hemingway, Julie Kavner, Demi Moore and Billy Crystal are just some of the big names in this film. 7 PM on BRAVO

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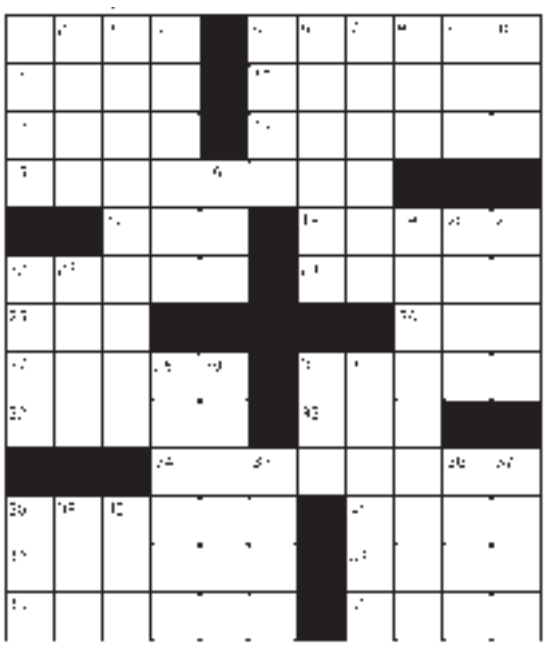
New baby for Bice
American Idol rocker Bo Bice and his wife Carolyn welcomed their second child together, a son named Caleb, Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn. The couple are also parents to son Aidan, who will be three in September. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Quarter, e.g.
2 Story monster
3 Economic declines
4 Sinew
5 Repast
6 Annie, for one
7 Strike caller
8 Fiction
9 Travel stop
10 Homer's neighbour
16 Mayo ingredient
19 Confrontations
20 Test type
21 Squirrel's cache
22 Church part
23 Luke's sister
28 Arrives
29 Ready for print
30 Shaggy beast
31 Pay to play
35 Heels
36 "Memory" musical
37 Macramé bit
38 Like the Beatles
39 Under the weather
40 Quarterback Manning

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Crossword across

1 Run to
5 "— Rouge"
11 Eyeball
12 Regal fur
13 Steel ingredient
14 Tack on
15 Asian capital
17 Boxer, e.g.
18 Bad lighting?
22 By the way
24 First Indian prime minister
25 Sunday seat
26 Bit for a bay
27 Scorch
30 Sailing boats
32 Moved slowly
33 Plus
34 Clock sound
38 Cinco de Mayo event
41 Actor McGregor
42 In cahoots
43 "Do — others ..."
44 Alternative to curtains
45 "You there!"

previous day's answer

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A slothful friend makes a break with the past. Creative people will achieve their objectives. A hot romance will be put on hold.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Money is coming from a strange place. Don't give up when a fantasy seems unattainable. A sweetheart gets rewards for fair play.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Be more professional on the job. Unfinished business returns to haunt you. You have an overpowering urge to take immediate action.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A man has solutions to serious problems. A message sets the framework for romance. A manic friend gives you some wacky inspiration.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Make an agreement when a friend is in need. Someone cries the blues about being neglected. Discreditable dealings start to dissipate.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Excellent treatment creates a welcoming mood. A radical change in surroundings is needed. Don't look for love in the wrong places.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Don't hesitate to settle a dispute. A bitter conflict leads to a sweet resolution. Playing games with worthy opponents will lead to victory.

SCORPIO
OCT 24- NOV 22
Allow yourself to play out a hunch. A therapist has much to offer. Carelessness leads to strong words.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23- DEC 21
Insight is gained from an intimate encounter. Walk with a friend who feels miserable. A brat interferes with your concentration.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Caress a friend's dented ego. Someone wants to look at your confidential material. A strange creature provokes your curiosity.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Soon you'll be sure that you've found the right one. Your actions make a difference in someone's life. You'll cheer up after a chat.

PISCES
FEB 19-MAR 20
Anticipate a brief power battle in the morning. Don't walk away from a winning situation. A reckless woman makes an error.

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Sudoku

		7					1	
3	1						5	4
		5	2			9	3	
6				9	8		2	
				6				
	2		1	7				3
	4	6			7	3		
1	7						4	9
	9					2		

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

2	4	6	8	3	1	9	5	7
5	7	1	2	9	4	3	6	8
8	3	9	6	7	5	2	1	4
6	8	4	1	2	9	7	3	5
7	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	1
9	1	5	7	8	3	4	2	6
4	9	7	5	6	2	1	8	3
1	5	2	3	4	8	6	7	9
3	6	8	9	1	7	5	4	2

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

more games metronews.ca

Calgary weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly cloudy. 30°	Clear. Low 14°	Sunny. 29°/ 13°	Sunny. 27°/ 10°	Partly cloudy. 21°/ 9°

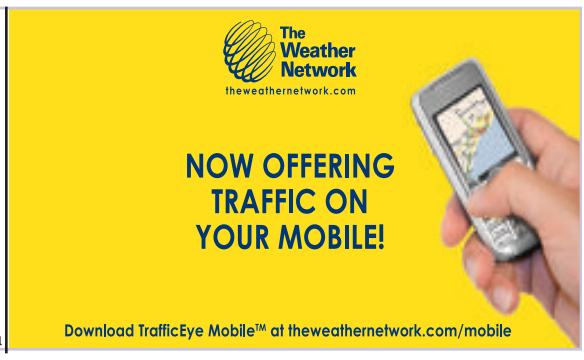
The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 23.2°
Low: 8.7°

Records
High: 33.3°/1920
Low: 1.7°/1889

Sunrise: 6:11 a.m.
Sunset: 9:11 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:06 p.m.
Moonset: 11:04 p.m.

TWN incorporates MSC data



Wedding's off

Designer Tommy Hilfiger's wedding has been called off, just days before the ceremony was due to take place. He was set to marry Dee Ocleppo on the Caribbean island of Mustique tomorrow. The split is said to be amicable. **IMDB.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Jen may eye parenthood with John

RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer Aniston is so head-over-heels in love, she's convinced for the first time since her marriage crumbled in 2005 that the time is right for her to finally become a mother, starmagazine.com reports.

"She feels so loved," says the friend of the actress' relationship with singer John Mayer. "John has really been doting on her. I mean, the presents, phone calls, romantic dinners — he's laying it on thick. It all makes Jen feel really important and special."

Aniston reportedly feels that after all she has been through watching her ex-husband Brad Pitt's family with actress Angelina Jolie grow, she'd love for Pitt to see photos of her holding her own baby.

"Jen feels so strongly that John is 'the one,' " says a source. "She knows he can handle being a dad."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

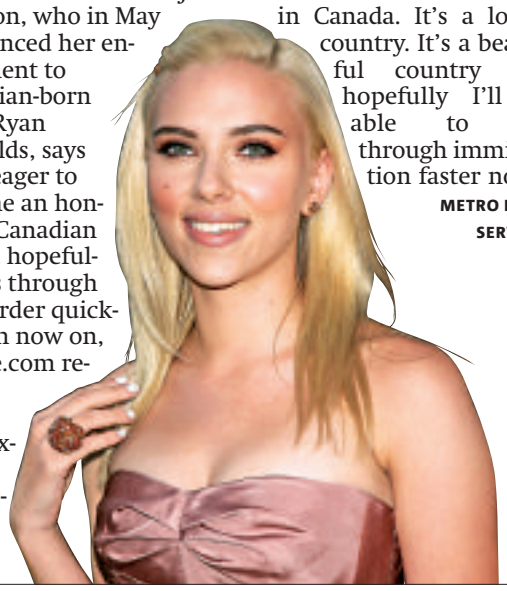
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Scarlett's all for Canada

RELATIONSHIPS Scarlett Johansson, who in May announced her engagement to Canadian-born actor Ryan Reynolds, says she's eager to become an honorary Canadian — and hopefully pass through the border quickly from now on, People.com reports.

"I'm very excited," the actress said. "I've had wonderful times in Canada. It's a lovely country. It's a beautiful country and hopefully I'll be able to get through immigration faster now!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Leona working on fashion line

RUMOUR Leona Lewis is set to launch her own fashion line, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is due to meet Sir Philip Green, the owner of British high street chain Topshop, about designing her own collection.

Lewis has said she would like to design non-leather shoes and bags.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Angie pregnant with No. 3

BABY NEWS Angie Harmon is prepping for baby No. 3, starmagazine.com reports.

The actress is three and a half months along with her third child. She already has two daughters, Finley, 4, and Avery, 3, with retired football player Jason Sehorn.

"She is over the moon and glowing," a source said. "And because the actress is so thin she is already sporting a tiny bump."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Keira out to prove smarts

PEOPLE "I am completely uneducated."

That's Keira Knightley, talking to Tatler about how her lack of higher learning has made her more determined to expand her knowledge base, MSN Entertainment reports.

"Not going to university did give me an incredible driving force because it leaves you with a slight chip on your shoulder," the actress admits. "It makes me feel I am going to read absolutely everything so I can prove that I am not stupid."

Among the highbrow tomes on Knightley's bookshelf: a history of the Vietnam War, a biography on Hitler's go-to architect Albert Speer and Germaine Greer's The Female Eunuch.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Scarlett Johansson wants to become a Canadian? Easy peasey, Scar. Just wait for somebody to step on your foot, then apologize to them. This, plus getting a hockey haircut, will automatically qualify you for Canadian citizenship.

In all fairness to the TV executive who told **Anna Friel** to lay off the doughnuts, he had just watched her scream, "You! You! Git in ma belly!" at a Krispy Kreme.

Leona Lewis wants to design "animal-friendly" bags. I have an extremely animal-friendly hockey bag in my attic. A raccoon had babies inside it. I'm mailing it to her tomorrow.

Katie Holmes just wants you to know she's a normal girl. She trips, she runs into things, and she spills food. This tells me just one thing: **Tom Cruise** needs to get somebody to look at his wireless "Katie-Controller" system. What's the use of surgically altering your wife's appearance until it's identical to your own if the chip in her head goes on the fritz and she escapes?

Chace Crawford frets over his grandparents blanching at the sight of him having sex on a barstool? I never had that problem, but of course, my grandparents owned the bar.

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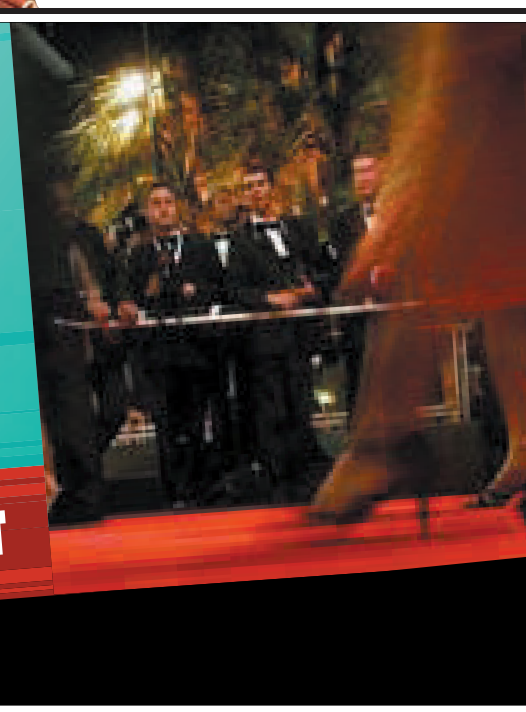


DiCaprio mourns grandmother
Leonardo DiCaprio is mourning the death of his beloved grandmother. The actor's grandmother Helene Indenbirken died in a hospital in her native North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. She was 93. No date or cause of death has yet been confirmed. **IMDB.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Cameron's relationship on the rocks?

RELATIONSHIPS Cameron Diaz reportedly wants to end her romance with her latest lover Paul Sculfor, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress' relationship with the model is in trouble after just two months, say friends.

Diaz is now said to be suggesting a trial separation, despite recently making plans to move in with Sculfor.

"Paul has moved his things into Cameron's Los Angeles home, but she insists the relationship has no strings attached," a source told Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper. "She has a 'don't ask, don't tell' rule — when they aren't in each other's company they can do as they like. She keeps telling Paul she's not ready to settle down and scrapped plans to fly to the U.K. to meet his family."

Diaz started dating Sculfor after his split from actress Jennifer Aniston.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

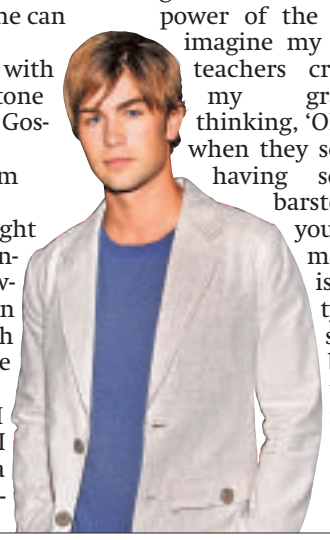
GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Show makes Chace squirm

TELEVISION Chace Crawford says he can sometimes get uncomfortable with the racy undertone of his hit show Gossip Girl, usmagazine.com reports.

"Is that a weight on my conscience?" Crawford says in an interview with London's The Independent. "Well, yes, I think it is. I come from a moral background, and I can see the power of the show, and imagine my old school teachers cringing, or my grandparents thinking, 'Oh, my God,' when they see me, say, having sex on a barstool. But you have to remember, this is not a reality show. It's supposed to be pure entertainment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Katie admits nerdiness

PEOPLE Katie Holmes has revealed she was a nerd at school, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress admits despite her calm and elegant exterior, she is actually just like everybody else.

"I can't deny that I'm a nerd," Holmes said. "I am who I am. I'm pretty normal, I'm not a smooth type of girl, I run into things, I trip, I spill food, I say stupid things — I really don't have it all together. But I'm working on it — I really am."

Holmes also revealed she never had much luck with boys while she was at school.

"In hindsight, I think going to an all-girls school meant we missed out socially," she added to Britain's OK! Magazine. "We came out of school and it was suddenly, 'Oh my God! Boys!' I was all about, 'How do I look? What is he thinking?' We weren't used to being around boys in a normal setting and seeing them as friends."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Justin dishes about Madonna

MUSIC Singer Justin Timberlake has opened up about working with pop star Madonna, deeming her as a very "specific" person to work with, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Timberlake, who collaborated with Madonna on the single 4 Minutes, admits it took time for them to see eye to eye during their recording sessions.

"Madonna is definitely specific about what she wants and I can't knock her for that," he said. "I respond to that because I'm that way, too. But I also think that it took us just a second to mesh our style, that's all. We're both strong personalities, some of us stronger than others and I didn't know it at the time. But I actually enjoyed the process of working with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Anna reveals weight struggle

PEOPLE British actress Anna Friel found it hard to find work when she moved to the United States because she refused to lose weight for roles, imdb.com reports.

"The obsession with weight today is just incredible .... I don't understand it," the Pushing Daisies star says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

It's baby times 2 for Lisa Marie

BABY NEWS Lisa Marie Presley is pregnant with twins, her rep has confirmed.

Presley, 40, who is expected to give birth in the fall, has two teenage children, daughter Riley, 19, and son Benjamin, 15, with ex Danny Keough. The twins will be Presley's first children with husband Michael Lockwood.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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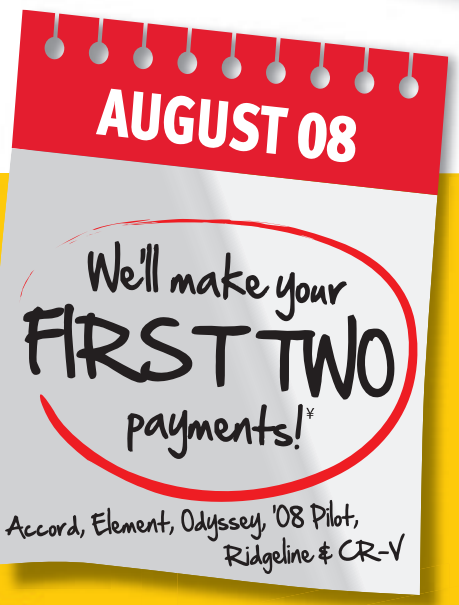

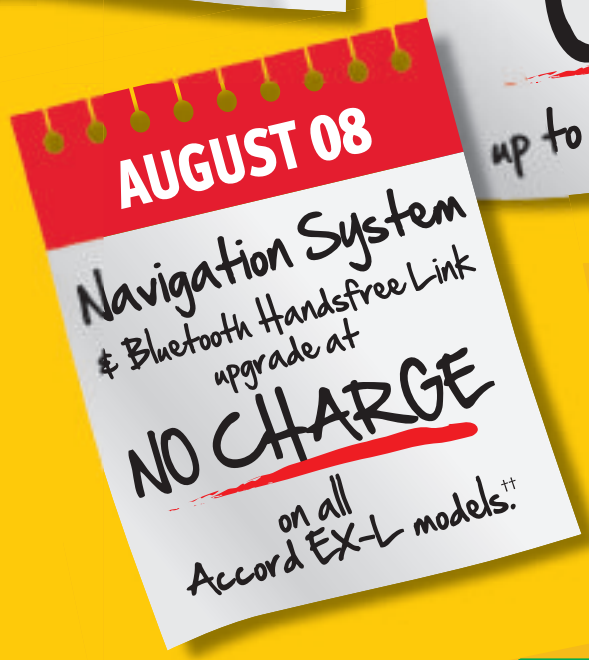

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